

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 /080 W

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R 121832Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9758

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0069

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR, PGOV

SUBJECT: JJSS ATTACKS CHIRAC

REF: PARIS 10502

1. IN EDITORIAL APPEARING IN APRIL 12-18 L'EXPRESS MAGAZINE, JEAN-JACQUES SERVAN-SCHREIBER PORTRAYS AS FAILURE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S TENURE AS "COORDINATOR" OF MAJORITY PARTIES. CAREFULLY ABSOLVING GISCARD FROM ANY BLAME AND REITERATING HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT, JJSS ATTACKS CHIRAC'S ALLEGED POLICY OF "FALLING BACK" ON VOTERS ALREADY WITHIN THE MAJORITY CAMP (READ GAULLISTS), RATHER THAN CONTINUING THE REFORM PROGRAM UPON WHICH GISCARD WAS ELECTED IN 1974.

2. ON SPECIFICS, JJSS CHARGES CHIRAC WITH DIVIDING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAJORITY BY REJECTING CENTRIST DEMANDS FOR A GENERAL

POLITICAL DEBATE IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (REFTEL),
WITH OBSCURING THE REAL NATIONAL DEBATE OVER REFORM BY
RESORTING TO PERSONAL ATTACKS AGAINST MITTERRAND AND
THEREBY "LOWERING HIMSELF" TO THE SOCIALIST LEADER'S
LEVEL, AND WITH PLUNGING THE COUNTRY INTO A TWO-YEAR
POLITICAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE PRESIDENT.
JJSS CONCLUDES BY SAYING THAT CHIRAC IS PLAYING WITH
THE NATIONAL FUTURE BY SUBSTITUTING HIS OWN "POLICY
BETS" FOR THE "POPULAR DEMOCRATIC WILL" (I.E. 1974
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS).

3. COMMENT: IN HIS REPLY TO THE EDITORIAL, CHIRAC
WELCOMED JJSS'S CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD.
HE THEN WROTE OFF THE ATTACK ON HIMSELF BY REFERRING,
TONGUE IN CHEEK, TO JJSS'S PENCHANT FOR "SPECTACULAR"
PUBLIC POSITION STATEMENTS. CHIRAC WAS HERE REFERRING
TO JJSS'S WELL-KNOWN TENDENCY TO SHOOT FROM THE HIP ON
DELICATE ISSUES, THE MOST MEMORABLE EXAMPLE OF WHICH
COST HIM HIS CABINET POSITION IN 1974 WHEN HE CAME OUT
AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE ATMOSPHERE.
NEVERTHELESS, JJSS'S MOST RECENT "SPECTACULAR" SERVES
AS ANOTHER REMINDER OF THE SEEMINGLY DEEP-SEATED SUS-
PICION AMONG MANY CENTRISTS OVER THE IMPLICATIONS FOR
REFORM STEMMING FROM CHIRAC'S APPOINTMENT AS MAJORITY
"COORDINATOR". END COMMENT
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, POLITICAL STABILITY, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS10733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760138-0807
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760471/aaaacirk.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 PARIS 10502
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JJSS ATTACKS CHIRAC
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, FR, L EXPRESS, (CHIRAC, JACQUES), (SERVAN-SCHREIBER, JEAN-JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006